



CALIFORNIA CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION

Advisory Committee on Diversity

September 18, 2000

Library Tsakopoulos Galleria

828 I Street

Sacramento, California

(Approved as corrected on November 6, 2000)

Attendance

Commissioners:

Rob Reiner, Chair

Louis Vismara, M.D.

Sandra Gutierrez, Committee Co-Chair

Margaret Fortune, Committee Co-Chair

Ed Melia, M.D.

Committee Members:

Guadalupe Alonzo

Reinaldo Galindo

Edna Marquez

Martin Waukazoo

Portia S. Choi

Javier Guzman

Patricia Phipps

Maysee Yang

Carlene Davis

Whitcomb Hayslip

Diane Visencio

Margaret Yonekura

Rafaela Frausto

Reverend Romie J. Lilly II

Alan A. Watahara

Welcome and Introduction

Chairman Reiner welcomed all the committee members and others for their attendance at the first meeting of the Advisory Committee on Diversity. He presented background information on Prop 10 and demographical information on children, zero to five, who have the greatest need.

Committee Co-Chair Margaret Fortune, ex-officio member representing the Secretary of Education, thanked Chairman Reiner for attending the meeting and discussed the issues of equity and access in education among California's diverse population. State Commissioner and Committee Co-Chair Sandra Gutierrez discussed the serious responsibilities of the Committee on Diversity (as the sole advisory committee to the State Commission), which included constructing a series of measurable steps to bring the Commission closer to the goals of strong families, healthy children, and children ready to learn.

The Committee members and CCFC staff were introduced. Members of the audience also introduced themselves. State Commissioner Louis Vismara discussed his involvement with the Prop 10 Commission and his specific interest in the issues pertinent to children with disabilities.

Briefing on California Children & Families Commission (CCFC)

Jane Henderson, Executive Director, described her background and the overall mission of the California Children and Families Commission (CCFC). Executive Director Henderson discussed the 2000-2001 Fiscal Year Objectives and Priorities of the State Commission and the Guiding Principles. In addition, the "Results to be achieved" document was also presented.

Joe Munso, Chief Deputy Director, provided an update on the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Public Education Media Campaign that was released in August. Copies of the Media RFP were distributed to the Committee Members. An RFP for the Public Relations Media Campaign will follow.

- Reverend Lilly requested more information on how outreach and public policy programs will be conducted. He also requested information on how minority organizations or persons could be involved in the development of the CCFC programs and policies so that they reflect the interests of those communities.
- Javier Guzman requested information on whether the Media/Outreach programs will be geared towards specific problems within individual communities.

Commission for One California

Chairman Reiner introduced Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamante. The Lt. Governor's discussion focused on diversity and early childhood, the teaching of tolerance at an early age, and establishing a collaborative relationship between the Prop 10 Commissions and the Commission for One California.

Advisory Committee on Diversity

Overview of the Advisory Committee, Including Purview and Charge of the Advisory Committee

Sandra Gutierrez read the State Commission's resolution, "Commitment to a Diverse California" that was adopted on November 19, 1999. She also reviewed the two-page description of the Advisory Committee on Diversity provided in an information packet. Margaret Fortune presented the following six points of action, which guide the work of the Committee and detail the role that the Advisory Committee is expected to play:

1. The Committee is to serve as advisors to the State Commission on policy issues in general as they relate to diversity and equity, by reviewing, recommending and when requested, prioritizing for resource allocation purposes strategies and programs to bridge the gaps that currently exist.
2. The Committee is to serve on review panels for funding proposals to ensure services are reaching diverse populations.
3. The Committee is to review media and outreach policies and plans to ensure the Commission is targeting and reaching the many diverse populations across the state.
4. The Committee is to solicit input from organizations and community groups.
5. The Committee is to review and make recommendation on the State Commission's Strategic Plan, as it relates to promoting equity.
6. The Committee is to develop a plan to begin to achieve equity. The Equity Plan will consist of recommendations on a) the principles that should guide the Commission and its actions; b) the roles the Commission should play; c) the strategic issues on which the Commission should concentrate its effort, and d) the agenda of projects that the Commission should initiate or continue.

Addressing the Dual Fronts of Children with Special Needs and Racial/Ethnic/Culturally Diverse Populations

Commissioner Sandra Gutierrez described the similarities between racial/ethnic populations and children with special needs for they do share issues and concerns regarding access, civil rights, and the fact that one size does not fit all. Commissioner Gutierrez noted that while these two fronts do have similarities that at the same time it is also critical to recognize that each has distinctive issues and aspects. The Committee has representatives with experience and expertise in the different aspects of diversity, including racial/ethnic/cultural diversity and children with special needs. A discussion followed on ways to best address the two fronts.

- Edna Marquez suggested that regulations, such as Title 22, be addressed with regard to which students can be admitted into a program. She also suggested that the term special needs be kept, but to define special needs to be inclusive of physical, emotional and cognitive special needs. She suggested that the term "special needs" be discussed in length at the next meeting.
- Whitcomb Hayslip suggested that children with language barriers could be included in the children with special needs group, and that language should be clarified.
- Patricia Phipps felt that it was very important to define special needs to include emotional and social and learning needs.
- Donna Michelson suggested that the term "special needs" be changed to "differently able".
- Dr. Louis Vismara suggested that there be strong representation on the State Commission and on all committees about children with disabilities. He suggested that the committee define issues for which resources can be mobilized.

Sandra Gutierrez requested that Whitcomb Hayslip, Louis Vismara, Portia Choi and Edna Marquez prepare and frame a discussion on what is the most inclusive way to proceed, in terms of the Committee's language, at the next meeting.

Role and Responsibilities of Committee Members

Margaret Fortune presented two forms, one identifying what the Advisory Committee Member's priorities are, and second, a survey form regarding the meeting schedule. She also described a follow up information form designed to build the Advisory Committee's network of organizations for distributing Prop 10 information, soliciting input, etc.

Sandra Gutierrez discussed how decisions and assignments with regard to the work of the Advisory Committee will be made. Sandra Gutierrez and Margaret Fortune will request volunteers and appoint individuals, based on their background and expertise, to serve on various subcommittees or workgroups as needed.

Between meetings, if the Advisory Committee Members have any questions and concerns, they could address them to Barbara Marquez in the CCFC office.

Reverend Lily requested that if the photo taken of the Advisory Committee is used for promotional purposes that it be sent to each of local community newspapers where Committee Members reside.

Opportunities and Challenges

Emily Nahat presented a report on the CCFC Proposed Implementation Plan for Fiscal Year 2000-2001. The Plan consolidates the related activities that are in the Objectives and Priorities. Emily Nahat described initiatives supported by the State Commission to recognize all of the developmental domains of young children for school readiness and to recognize that each child is part of a family. The following initiatives were discussed:

1. County Commission Partnership Initiatives
 - a) Demonstration Programs: coordinated services and family support
 - b) Matching Funds to County Commissions for retention of childcare and development providers
2. Media Campaign
 - a) Public Education/Media Campaign
 - b) Public Education/Public Relations
3. Standards, Curriculum, Educational Materials, Training for Coordinated Services and Family Support
 - a) Developing content and a plan for statewide training and designing and evaluation plan
 - b) Providing technical assistance and training and evaluating demonstration programs.
4. Standards, Curriculum, Educational Materials, Training for Childcare and Development
 - a) Curriculum and Content Development

5. Indicators, Data Collection, Evaluation and Reporting
 - a) Developing curriculum in gap areas, developing a plan for statewide dissemination, conducting evaluation and research, and serving as a clearing house for resource materials
 - b) Providing a network of training across the state
6. Parent Education
7. Survey of Policy Makers and the Public
8. Health Care Provider Training Pilot Program on Tobacco Cessation for Pregnant Women
9. Inclusion/Early Intervention Specialists
10. Technical Assistance to County Commissions.

Public Comment:

- Karen Adam of Welfare Action inquired as to why funds were ever dispersed to counties before the evaluation, data and various research aspects were developed.
- Cheri Schoenborn of the California Department of Developmental Services reminded the Commission to acknowledge and collaborate with other efforts targeted to children with special needs that are currently provided by other state and local public entities.
- Donna Sanders requested information on the publications referenced in the handouts. She also asked if the direct grants for community-based organizations required formal approval by county commissions.
- Barbara Fields inquired as to whether county commissions could request guidance to facilitate progress towards meeting the State Commission's goals.

Working Lunch

Travel information

Lupe Almer discussed travel expense claim forms and suggested that committee members contact her if they had any questions.

Conflict of Interest

Frank Furtek and Janie Daigle from the Attorney General's Office discussed conflict of interest issues that may arise. The discussion included a brief review of the Political Reform Act and the Public Contracts Act. Mr. Furtek also stressed the importance of disclosing and excusing/disqualifying oneself from any discussion on an agenda item that would present a possible conflict of interest.

Continued Discussion on Opportunities and Challenges

FY 2000-2001 Conference and Training Calendar and Other Short and Long Term Activities or Areas of Focus

Emily Nahat announced that the next Statewide Conference of County Commissions would be held in San Diego in February 2001. She distributed a list of proposed conference topics to the Committee Members. She also announced that the first planning Committee meeting would be held later in the week (September 20) in conjunction with the Executive Director's meeting in Ventura.

Margaret Fortune took a poll on the committee members' interest in being involved in the planning of the statewide conference of County Commissions and requested input on a list of activities in which the Commission is engaged. Members Rey Galindo, Donna Visencio and Guadalupe Alonzo were designated as the Advisory Committee representatives to the Statewide Conference of County Commissions planning committee.

Ms. Fortune suggested the following issues as possible focus for the Committee's future work:

1. Define "special needs" children
2. Discuss the meaning of "school readiness" and how it could define the Advisory Committee's work
3. Address access

In response, there was a discussion and the following comments were made:

- Carlene Davis suggested that the Advisory Committee examine policy issues and data collection to determine access among all races.
- Javier Guzman suggested that not only should the issue of a child's school readiness be addressed, but in the context of a family's school readiness and not solely in terms of academics. He also asked if and how medical information would be used as an impact indicator for school readiness.
- Rafaela Frausto presented some access considerations among rural populations, including geographical location and lifestyle.
- Reverend Lily suggested that the Committee make sure that target populations and local government participate in implementation of plans within a community. He also requested information on utilizing private organizations for outreach purposes. Additionally, Reverend Lilly mentioned the need to work with the faith-based community.
- Brenda Blasingame suggested that the meaning of "access and equity" be clarified at the January meeting. She also requested that the Advisory Committee arrange an informative presentation by the Civic Engagement project.
- Maysee Yang suggested that removing barriers, including the use of jargon, was the key to access.
- Renaldo Galindo suggested that selected language be receptive and appropriate to the family needs.
- Diane Visencio suggested that guidelines be laid out and tools provided for projects that are applying for Prop 10 funds, when they are trying to demonstrate that they are culturally and linguistically competent.
- Whitcomb Hayslip suggested that the Committee consider kindergarten for what it is and that the Committee study the information and language that is currently available on children with disabilities.

Setting the Course for Future Work

Meeting Schedule

Barbara Marquez discussed the Proposed Meeting Schedule handout. Monday, November 6, 2000 was selected as the next one-day meeting date; the location will be in Sacramento. A two-day planning meeting will be held on January 29-30, 2001 at a retreat setting; the committee stated a preference for a Southern California site.

In terms of the on-going meeting days, the second, third or fourth Monday of each month are possible options. It was proposed to have a meeting on February 7, 2001 in conjunction with the Statewide Conference of County Commissions.

Identification of seminal background information and materials needs

Committee members were asked to submit their "Follow-up Information Sheet" by October 6th.

Adjournment

The September 18, 2000 California Children & Families Commission Advisory Committee On Diversity adjourned at 2:35 p.m. The next meeting will be held on November 6, 2000, at the Tsakopoulos Galleria Library, 828 I Street, Sacramento, California.